

U.S. ambassador returns to Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The U.S. ambassador to Syria, William Eagleton, returned to Damascus on Wednesday after a ten-month absence over Syria's alleged involvement in the London bomb plot. A Syrian official said that with Mr. Eagleton's return, the government in Damascus had "witnessed with satisfaction the return of U.S.-Syrian relations to normal." Mr. Eagleton was withdrawn last October after Britain broke off relations with Syria over its alleged involvement in an alleged plot to blow up an Israeli airliner flying from London. President Ronald Reagan, in November, imposed sanctions on Syria including a ban on high-level contacts between U.S. and Syrian officials. But the U.S. leader in a surprise move last June offered to send a special envoy to Damascus for high-level talks to improve relations. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad accepted Mr. Reagan's overture — seen by diplomats as recognising Syria's key role in the Middle East — and two weeks later received presidential envoy Vernon Walters in the Syrian capital.

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King sends good wishes to Qatar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalid Ibn Hamad Al Thani, on the occasion of the anniversary of his accession to the throne. The King wished Sheikh Khalid continuing good health and happiness and the Qatari people further progress and prosperity.

Envoy sworn in

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Nabil Al Talhouni was sworn in before His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Court on Wednesday as Jordan's ambassador to Kuwait. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

Sfar and Muasher hold talks

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian Prime Minister Rashid Star held talks here on Wednesday with the Jordanian minister of trade, industry and supply, Dr. Rajai Muasher, on economic relations and cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia. Mr. Sfar and Dr. Muasher also discussed in detail possibilities of industrial cooperation between the two countries. They also reviewed the outcome of meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Committee which concluded here Tuesday (See page 3).

Cheysson due in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — A senior European Community (EC) official is due here for talks on Friday, the first since the EC lifted a ban on such contacts, imposed last year after allegations of Syrian involvement in an alleged London bomb plot. A spokesman for the EC office here said Claude Cheysson, a former French foreign minister and the EC's Mediterranean affairs commissioner, will pay a three-day visit for talks on ways to step up cooperation with Syria.

Beirut blast hurts 5

BEIRUT (AP) — A small bomb went off in a crowded street of west Beirut Wednesday, wounding five people slightly, police reported. There has been no responsibility claim for the blast at 8:20 a.m. in the Barbir district. This was the latest of a series of bomb explosions in west Beirut since Feb. 22 when Syria deployed 7,500 troops there in an effort to end three years of militia anarchy.

Israel unhappy over Swiss-PLO meeting

GENEVA (AP) — The Israeli ambassador to Switzerland complained Wednesday to the Swiss Foreign Ministry about next week's scheduled meeting between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and the number two man in the Swiss Foreign Ministry. The ambassador, conveyed his message to the Swiss Foreign Ministry by telephone, according to a statement issued by the Israeli mission in Geneva. It said Mr. Rivlin "deplored the scheduled meeting between" Mr. Arafat and State Secretary Eduard Brunner.

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Day of disaster for shipping in spiralling 'tanker war'

17 vessels said hit in five days as Iran and Iraq escalate attacks in Gulf waters

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran ambushed five ships within 16 hours and Iraq kept up relentless pressure on Iranian oil exports on Wednesday as the Gulf tanker war reached new heights of ferocity bringing to at least a dozen the number of ships hit by Iran or Iraq in 24 hours.

The wave of Iranian raids at sea, matching Iraqi strikes on Tehran's oil tankers by blow, took place under the nose of U.S. warships patrolling the Gulf and heightened fears of a clash between Washington and Tehran in the waterway.

Vessels flying seven different flags were among the known victims as Iraq carried out new air raids and the Iranians retaliated with their patented seaborne commando attacks on neutral shipping.

In all, 17 ships had been reported hit by Iraq or Iran since the hostilities resumed over the weekend, breaking a six-week lull. But shipping executives, who asked not to be named, said even the 12 confirmed attacks far exceeded the monthly average of six in 1984-85 and 8 to 10 last year.

As Iran appeared to intensify its counter-attacks, Iraqi jets struck again at Iranian shipping, oilfields and other industrial

grenades and the 97,286-tonne Greek tanker Dafni was hit by three, possibly four, speedboats near Iranian-held Farsi Island, a known base for the marine guerrillas.

Earlier, speedboats attacked the 101,416-tonne Japan-chartered, Liberian-flag tanker Diamond Maru in the Strait of Hormuz, the 82,000-tonne South Korean tanker Astro Pegasus 65 kilometres off Dubai, and the 300,078-tonne Spanish supertanker Munguia in the central Gulf.

Iran's attacks were sparked by Iraq's resumption on Saturday of strikes on Iranian offshore oil targets and Baghdad said its warplanes had hit a 10th Iranian tanker on Wednesday.

The daylight raid on the Dafni was mounted less than two hours after Baghdad's report of another hit on what it terms a "large naval target."

Later Wednesday, Iraq reported its 11th attack since Saturday, and the second on Wednesday.

A Baghdad high command communiqué said the Iraqi jets accurately and effectively hit a large naval target. Iraq's term for a tanker, at 14:15 local time (10:15 GMT) off the Iranian coast.

All of the damaged vessels reached nearby ports or continued on their way, according to shipping sources.

(Continued on page 4)

Kittani: Security Council should penalise Iran

U.S. gives Tehran until Friday to accept ceasefire

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations said Wednesday it was logical for the U.N. Security Council to penalise Iran for failing to agree to a ceasefire the resolution adopted unanimously July 20 by the Security Council.

"Iran has to give a response," said Ihsan Kittani. "The period of grace... was ample and the question now is, will Iran comply with the Security Council and will the Security Council draw the logical conclusion that Iran has no intention of complying and therefore move to the mandatory sanctions?" said Ihsan Kittani.

Mr. Kittani, interviewed on CBS-TV's "Morning News," said Iran has delayed answering the call for a ceasefire and had the intervening time to "increase its oil exports to finance its aggression against Iraq. No country can accept that."

Meanwhile, the State Department denied a news account that said the U.S. government was providing intelligence information to help Iraq find Iranian

targets. "The stalling is unacceptable," State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Tuesday of Iran's failure to reply to the resolution adopted unanimously July 20 by the Security Council.

Otherwise, the U.S. spokeswoman said, the council should begin drafting a resolution to punish Iran next week.

It could be adopted only with Soviet approval, and Vladimir F. Petrovsky, a deputy foreign minister, suggested that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar should have more time to try to persuade Iran to comply with the ceasefire.

Mr. Petrovsky also urged the United States to withdraw its warships from the Gulf to reduce tensions in the region.

The United States is giving Iran until Friday to agree to the ceasefire or face the prospect of a worldwide arms embargo.

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. keeps Iran guessing over next escort convoy

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The United States is hiding the sailing time of its next convoy of refuged Kuwaiti tankers behind a wall of secrecy as Iran and Iraq blaze away in a tit-for-tat tanker war across the Gulf.

Three fully-loaded tankers, ready since Saturday when Iraq renewed raids on Iranian oil exports, remained anchored on Wednesday off Kuwait's main oil port, Mina Al Ahmadi.

U.S. warships which escorted two other tankers into Kuwait on Tuesday did not pick them up for the return journey out of the Gulf as most shipping officials in the region had expected.

The gas carriers Gas Queen and Gas Princess and the refined product tanker Townsend made five tankers out of the Gulf at once but such a large convoy would not be as secure as a smaller one.

The largest so far has been a four-tanker convoy which made the 880-kilometre voyage last month.

The sources said a sailing delay beyond Thursday could cause

(Continued on page 3)

Israeli minister vows more settlements

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Israeli Housing Minister David Levy pledged on Wednesday to increase the Jewish presence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank at a cornerstone-laying ceremony for a new Jewish settlement.

"Every day we will establish settlements in all of 'eretz Israel,' he said. Economic or political considerations will not stop us."

Mr. Levy, of the rightist Likud bloc, spoke to 100 settlers, political activists and journalists on a hill near the town of Tulkarem where the "Avnei Hefetz" settlement and industrial park are to be built.

Israeli forces were out in force. A bulldozer stood by to level the hill before building begins.

About 60,000 Jewish settlers have moved in among 1.3 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since Israel occupied the areas in the 1967 war.

The Likud bloc, headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, favours new Jewish settlements in the areas.

Foreign Minister Shimon

assembled the guerrilla tactics employed before a six-week suspension of the tanker war which has now been totally shattered.

In four cases, Revolutionary Guards ambushed ships at high speed, spraying machinegun fire near, but not at, accommodation quarters and pumping rocket-propelled grenades into engine bays.

Shipping sources said no seamen had been injured, but the raids were clearly meant to intimidate crew.

The Iranian strikes overnight followed closely after Iraq claimed four air raids against Iranian oil tankers.

The daylight raid on the Dafni was mounted less than two hours after Baghdad's report of another hit on what it terms a "large naval target."

Later Wednesday, Iraq reported its 11th attack since Saturday, and the second on Wednesday.

A Baghdad high command communiqué said the Iraqi jets accurately and effectively hit a large naval target. Iraq's term for a tanker, at 14:15 local time (10:15 GMT) off the Iranian coast.

All of the damaged vessels reached nearby ports or continued on their way, according to shipping sources.

(Continued on page 4)

Rifai calls on Arab states to settle differences and adopt united stand

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has called on Arab countries to forego their differences and take a united stand in the face of challenges and dangers which confront the Arab Nation as a result of the on-going Iranian aggression on Iraq.

In an interview with the Iraqi News Agency (INA), Mr. Rifai said differences among Arab countries should end and the Arabs ought to come to agreement on the substance of the chronic issues plaguing the Arab Nation and safeguard their higher national interests.

Mr. Rifai said Jordan had been supporting Iraq and all other Arab countries in their just causes under any circumstances and regardless of sacrifices and would continue to do so in the future.

He paid tribute to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's leadership of Iraq, "which has proved



a staunch Arab fortress and a cohesive confide in the face of aggression and in the struggle to defend Arab soil."

"Jordan has never had any doubt about Iraq's military capability, and its standfastness in the face of aggression not only against Iraqi territory but also on

any part of the Arab Nation and Arab identity in the eastern flank of the Arab World," Mr. Rifai said.

The prime minister voiced appreciation of Iraq's positive stand with regard to peace initiatives to end the conflict with Iran.

"Iraq's favourable response to bids made by regional and international parties to achieve peace in the Gulf is greatly appreciated by all nations," the prime minister said.

Baghdad's favourable attitude towards United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 provides further proof of Iraq's noble stand, Mr. Rifai said. In contrast, the prime minister said, the international community has regarded Iran's rejection of the Security Council resolution for ending the war as another evidence of that country's intransigence and its refusal to respond positively to the international will represented in the resolution.

Klein praises Jordan's development achievements

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — West German Minister for Economic Cooperation Hans Klein on Wednesday expressed his appreciation of Jordan's socio-economic development achievements, and said his government was determined to continue its financial, technical and economic cooperation programmes with the Kingdom.

Mr. Klein, who served as press attaché for his embassy in Jordan during the early 1960s, told a group of foreign and local press correspondents that Jordan had set an example for development in Third World countries.

"I am particularly proud to have Jordan as an example to be shown to my fellow countrymen in Germany when I need to convince them how necessary it is to renew offensive would force Iran to accept a U.N.-ordered ceasefire in the seven-year Gulf war.

Iraq relaunched its attacks on Iranian oil exports last Saturday, striking offshore oil installations and shipping, after a 45-day suspension that preceded a U.N. Security Council ceasefire order voted on July 20.

Shipping sources in the Gulf said the resumption of what has become known as the tanker war represented a serious escalation in the conflict at sea which prompted Washington to send warships to escort Kuwaiti tankers.

It said Mr. Klein, an aeronautical engineer who helped to launch the project, handed his resignation to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Israeli cabinet resignations take effect 48 hours after they are submitted to the prime minister.

Mr. Arens, a minister without portfolio, threatened to resign on Sunday after the government voted 12-11 to abandon the costly seven-year-old project in favour of a cheaper U.S.-built fighter aircraft.

Mr. Arens, 61, a former ambassador to Washington, belonged to Mr. Shamir's Likud bloc.

Likud cabinet ministers, partners in a coalition government with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party, said they agreed at a meeting on Wednesday to seek to freeze the decision to cancel the Lavi.

"We must definitely find ways to delay the decision on the production of the Lavi. Already, after two or three days, we can see the decision had no basis."

Moshe Arens resigns from Israeli cabinet over Lavi

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli cabinet minister Moshe Arens, angry over a government decision to scrap the Lavi fighter, submitted his resignation on Wednesday night, Israel Radio said.

But that was not enough for Mr. Arens, the radio said, and he immediately handed in his resignation.

The cabinet vote to cancel the Lavi project split largely along party lines. Likud ministers, with the notable exception of Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, voted to continue it, and Labour ministers voted against or abstained.

Mr. Arens, who aspires to be prime minister of Israel, made the Lavi fighter project a personal cause when he was defence minister in 1983-84 and fought till the end to save it.

He is seen as a potential successor to Mr. Shamir, along with Shimon and Housing Minister David Levy, as head of the right-wing Herut Party in the Likud.

Hundreds of Israeli aircraft workers, angry over the government decision, inquired about immigrating to the United States and Canada.

About 300 workers queued at the U.S. and Canadian embassies' visa sections less than 24 hours after Mr. Shamir spoke of the danger of a brain-drain which he said could have serious consequences for Israel's "security."

JVC TERMINATION OF SERVICES

The Mohammad Mahmoud Juma'a and Sons Co., agents of JVC in Jordan, hereby announce to its customers that Mr. Tamimi is no longer connected, either directly or indirectly with the company. The company would like to ask its dear customers not to pay any sums of money to him directly; rather, payments should be made through the company offices.

Libyan leader urges Arabs to develop nuclear weapons

BEIRUT (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has urged Arabs to develop nuclear weapons as protection against Israel.

"I would say ... the Arabs should possess the atom bomb," he said in a televised speech on Tuesday night marking the 18th anniversary of the bloodless coup which toppled King Idris and brought him to power.

Now that the Israeli possess the atomic weapon, the Arabs have nothing before them except to work day and night to possess the atomic weapon in order to defend their existence."

The official Libyan News Agency (ANA), monitored in Beirut, also quoted Col. Qadhafi as saying Libya and Algeria had agreed to form a union from Nov. 15, a first step towards an Arab union which would enable Arabs to force others to respect them.

Under the Arab union, heads of state would form a presidential council, Col. Qadhafi said.

Any Arab prime minister in any Arab country shall become the prime minister of all the Arab prime ministers, once every six months ...," he said.

Any aggression or threat of aggression of any kind that falls within our member state should be considered an attack on all member states."

Col. Qadhafi described the link with between Iran and Iraq as "closer" and said it should

end. Arab countries were digging their own graves by involving the United States in the Gulf, he said.

We must resist America. And not only Libyans should resist it. We must mobilise the masses of the Arab nation," he said.

He criticised the Soviet Union for failing to check Washington's moves in the Gulf. "The USSR should not allow America to do whatever it pleases in the Gulf," he said.

On Libya's battles with Chad over the disputed border strips of Aouzou, Col. Qadhafi said Tripoli was working to reconcile rival forces in the central African state.

He said the United States was behind what he called Chadian aggression and was stirring up internal conflict in Chad.

"Libya is pushing for national reconciliation in Chad and helping its people to develop and rebuild their country ... while the Americans are aiming at kindling internal conflict and forcing Tripoli to Chadians to die for the sake of its orders."

Earlier on Tuesday, Col. Qadhafi reviewed a parade of army, navy and air force units to mark the coup on Sept. 1, 1969, which swept him to power.

fighting was continuing. Both Libya and Chad claim sovereignty over the border strip annexed by Libya in 1973.

Col. Qadhafi said he wanted Mr. Habre and former President Goukouni Oueddei to form a united Chad government. "We would like to help it (Chad) dress its wounds and realise its national unity," he said.

He described the presence of French troops and aircraft in southern Chad as symbolic, adding that Paris did not want hostile relations with Tripoli.

"We have no desire to dispatch any Libyan forces to Chad, even at Chad's request. What do our forces do in this distant desert and these distant places?" Col. Qadhafi asked.

"Our sons are away from their families, relatives and country. We have enough desert, enough mountains and enough sunshine. We do not need any of Chad's desert."

"We have no colonialist ambitions in Chad at all. We would like to put an end to this game."

He added: "Libya must not fight in Africa; but in South Africa, in Palestine ... America wishes Chadians to die for the sake of its orders."

Japan formally surrendered after World War II, was accompanied by the nuclear-powered guided-missile cruiser Long Beach and five other ships when it entered the northern Arabian Sea, department officials said.

They identified the other ships as the guided-missile cruiser Bunker Hill, guided-missile destroyer Hoel, frigate Curtis, destroyer Leftwich and oiler Kansas City.

A department spokesman said the latest arrivals brought to about 10 the number of U.S. warships deployed to protect 11 Kuwaiti tankers being re-registered as U.S. ships.

In addition, the navy is sending at least 12 minesweeping craft, six patrol boats and up to 100 sailors, according to Steve Kosak of the private Centre for Defence Information, Washington think tank.

The U.S. naval force now stands as the largest massed for an operation since the Vietnam war, defence officials say.

The Defence Department on Tuesday reported the completion of the latest Gulf convoy, in which the 80,000-tonne product carries Chesapeake City and Surf City were turned over to Kuwait by the navy cruiser Reeves and the frigate Hawes.

Missouri boosts U.S. firepower in Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — The battleship Missouri, one of the most heavily armed and thickly armoured ships in the navy, has joined U.S. forces supporting the escort of reregistered Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf.

The 58,000-tonne Missouri significantly boosts American firepower in the area, with 16-inch guns capable of hurling high-explosive 2,700-pound shells 23 miles as well as Tomahawk cruise missiles with a range of 1,500 miles.

Defence Department officials said on Tuesday that the Missouri's firepower could be used with less risk than aircraft in attacking Silkworm anti-ship missiles which Iran might deploy along the Strait of Hormuz.

With armour plating up to 17 inches thick, the Missouri is regarded by naval experts as virtually invulnerable to non-nuclear attack.

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Poll shows Italians against sending ships to Gulf

ROME (R) — A narrow majority of Italians approve the government's decision not to send minesweepers to the Gulf, which imports more than 40 per cent of its oil through the Strait of Hormuz, has come under increasing pressure to join France and Britain in sending minesweepers to patrol the dangerous waters.

The survey in the Corriere Della Sera newspaper said 51 per cent of those polled supported the decision not to send minesweepers.

Twenty-five per cent were in favour of sending the ships immediately, with the remainder undecided or indifferent.

Rome's non-interventionist policy, masterminded by Foreign

Minister Giulio Andreotti, has caused strains within the new five-party coalition government and Italy, which imports more than 40 per cent of its oil through the Strait of Hormuz, has come under increasing pressure to join France and Britain in sending minesweepers to patrol the dangerous waters.

The Italian Foreign Ministry said the Iraqi envoy in Rome was told that the attacks risked escalating hostilities in the seven-year-old Gulf war and endangered shipping in international waters.

Italy and Britain registered their protests after Iraqi planes attacked Iranian oil installations in the fourth successive day since Iraq ended a six-week moratorium on such attacks.

The Italian government told the Iraqi charge d'affaires it hoped each side would readopt as soon as possible a responsible state of self-control," the Italian

It said this was vital if the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, passed on July 20 and calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf, was to succeed.

'Waite may be freed within 10 days'

KUWAIT (AP) — The abducted Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite is expected to be freed within 10 days, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

In a Beirut dispatch Tuesday night, KUNA quoted unnamed Lebanese security sources as saying that "as a result of recently intensified regional pressures, Mr. Waite will be released within 10 days."

"Strong pressures have recently been applied on the kidnappers

and Mr. Waite should have been freed two days ago, but last-minute hitches developed, blocking the release," KUNA quoted the sources as saying. "However, regional powers are now trying to surmount those obstacles."

The Kuwaiti agency said the sources declined to identify the regional party pressuring the kidnappers. It added this was widely believed to be Syria which last month succeeded in securing the release of the American jour-

nalist Charles Glass, the agency added.

The sources indicated that Mr. Waite is being held in Beirut's administrative area and that he is being well-treated by his abductors," the agency said.

Mr. Waite, the official envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury, disappeared in Beirut on Jan. 20 on his fifth mission seeking to free foreign hostages held by pro-Iranian Lebanese groups.

Saudis get 14 Tornado jets from U.K.

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia has taken delivery of 14 British-made Tornado jet fighters, as part of a deal for the purchase of 102 military aircraft signed last year, the Abu Dhabi government-owned newspaper Al Ittihad had reported Wednesday.

Citing an unnamed military source in Paris, the paper said that Saudi pilots were currently training on the Tornados along

States backed away from selling them advanced jets.

The paper did not say when the rest of the Tornados would be delivered. But it added that arrangements have been made for the delivery of one Hawk per month beginning this month.

It said that Kuwait has initiated preliminary contacts with Britain to buy 20 Tornados, adding that Jordan was also expected to buy 34 of these fighters.

Amnesty: Torture still widespread in Turkey

LONDON (R) — Torture is still widely and systematically used in Turkey, the human rights group Amnesty International said on Wednesday.

Amnesty's monthly newsletter devoted several pages to the subject, including detailed descriptions of the type of torture used by police, eyewitness accounts and a plan of one of the main centres it said was used exclusively for torture.

Arab states along the Gulf — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — have denied providing facilities for Iraq.

not observed any fundamental changes in the systematic and widespread practice of torture."

Amnesty said it had received hundreds of allegations of torture in the early 1970s, although incidents dropped before rising again following the military coup in September 1980.

"At the beginning of 1987 the number of people who had been taken into custody was estimated by the newly-founded Human Rights Association in Turkey to be at least 240,000... Continuing reports of torture during recent months point to the fact that the pattern has shown no significant change to the present day," the newsletter said.

The main purpose of torture in police custody appeared to be to extract information and confessions. Ill-treatment in prisons, including routine beatings, was intended to intimidate and humiliate prisoners as well as maintain discipline.

Amnesty said it had submitted to the Turkish authorities the names of more than 100 people known to have died in custody since 1980.

"In reply Amnesty has received information from the authorities on 82 of these cases. Most of the replies are less than satisfactory," it said.

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ARAMCO increases donation to assist W. Bank charitable societies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab American Oil Company (ARAMCO) has made a donation of \$278,500 to charitable and voluntary societies in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

A cheque for the donation was given to Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudi at his office Tuesday by Jamal Sarayrah, director of the ARAMCO office in Amman.

The minister expressed Jordan's appreciation to ARAMCO

for its generous contribution which, he said, would help finance projects by educational and charitable institutions in the occupied Arab territories totaling \$625,500 this year. ARAMCO has been providing financial assistance to these institutions over the past several years.

ARAMCO, wholly owned by the Saudi Arabian government, is the world's biggest oil company.

Muasher attends more economic, industrial cooperation talks in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the 43rd meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council meeting which opened here Wednesday.

The Jordanian delegation to the two-day meeting, which is being attended by Arab ministers of economy and finance, is led by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher.

Dr. Muasher, who arrived in Tunis on Sunday, also headed Jordan's team at the Joint Jordan-Tunisia Economic Committee meetings.

On Tuesday evening, he signed the minutes of those meetings. In the minutes, Jordan and Tunisia stressed that they will offer each other preferential trade treatment in the import and export of national products.

The joint committee decided to fix the level of trade of 1988 at \$30 million shared equally by the

two sides. The two sides, which had agreed in 1985 to exempt national products imported by either country from any customs fees, decided at the meeting to impose customs on a limited number of products, in view of the difficult economic circumstances they both face at present.

The committee also agreed upon organising an exhibition for Jordanian products in Tunis, and a similar one in Amman, for promoting Tunisian products on an annual basis, allowing merchants at these exhibitions to sell products directly to the public. They also agreed to allow trade centres for the two countries, in Amman and Tunis, to sell products worth \$5 million each, and to establish a joint council to organise trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Royal Decree endorses insurance law amendment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday endorsing an amendment to the Jordanian Insurance Law. The amendment calls for the establishment of a union of Jordanian insurance companies to serve as a legal representative of all insurance companies before official departments and government offices. In addition, the amendment bans the registration of new insurance companies in Jordan without Cabinet approval and recommendation by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply.

Another Royal Decree issued Wednesday approved an amendment to the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) Law. The amendment states that any decision by the JMA's higher disciplinary council can be disputed by the Higher Court of Justice within 30 days after the disciplinary decision has been passed.

Mu'ta graduates paratroopers

AMMAN (Petra) — The first batch of paratroopers from Mu'ta University graduated Wednesday at a ceremony held under the patronage of Army Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Farbi Abu Taleh.

The graduates presented a performance of bailing out from aircraft at the outset of the ceremony, which also included a speech by the commander of the Armed Forces Special Corps, which offered training to the graduating students who later received their wings from Lt.-Gen. Abu Taleh.

Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafza and senior army officers also attended the graduation ceremony.

The graduates were turned out from the military wing of the university, and parachuting is an essential part of the training programme to become senior officers in the Jordanian Armed Forces, according to Dr. Mahafza. He said that students in the military wing, all sent to the university for training by the armed forces and public security, receive theoretical as well as practical training in military and security fields.

U.S. keeps Iran guessing

(Continued from page 1) problems for customers of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). The Gas Queen is bound for Japan, the Gas Prince for Turkey and the Townsend for Italy.

"Sailing times are now out of the hands of either KPC or the customers," said one source.

Paris orders mine-clearing

France has ordered four French vessels to start clearing mines in international waters at the mouth of the Gulf. Defence Minister Andre Giraud said on Wednesday.

He said the force of three minehunters and a support ship

Hospital opened in S. Shuneh

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — A celebration was held at South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley on Wednesday for the inauguration of the town's 20-bed hospital, which will be offering services to at least 30,000 local inhabitants.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, who inaugurated the hospital, made a speech on the occasion, which outlined his ministry's determination to promote health services for people in all areas.

The hospital had originally served as a health centre, but the ministry decided to expand its services and turn it into a hospital, thereby improving medical care and primary health care services for the people of South Shuneh.

In an announcement in the

Parliamentary talks open in Damascus

People's Council.

Mr. Bataineh said, after the initial meeting, that the two sides are trying to amend the APU charter in an updated manner so that it can properly address ongoing events in the Arab World. Both teams will put forward amendment proposals which will then be submitted to the APU's upcoming meeting in Tunis, due to be held in November, Mr. Bataineh noted.

Mr. Bataineh and Mr. Zureiqat are expected to spend three days in the Syrian capital, during which they will meet with Mr. Mahmoud Al Zoubi, speaker of the Syrian People's Council, and other officials.

Agriculture ministry seeks river project consultant

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that it is seeking the services of a consultant to assist in the implementation of structural protection of the banks of the Zarga River against the erosive action of floods.

In an announcement in the

local press, the ministry said that the river segment to be protected includes parts of the stretch between Al Sukhna and King Talal Dam. The project implementation period is estimated at three years, and will include detailed design, tendering, and construction.

Another speaker was Dr. Abdul Halim Al Hayasat, director of the health department at Balqa Governorate, who said that the transformation of the centre into a hospital was necessary, in view of the growing need for medical services in the Jordan Valley.

Dr. Hamzeh and Minister of Agriculture Mr. Marwan Hmoud, who attended the opening ceremony, toured the different parts of the hospital.

At the opening ceremony, the expansion of Ata Ali's ice cream factory has upgraded Jordan's ability to produce and export different varieties of ice cream.

Special new unique ice cream machines and equipment are used to produce the finest ice creams, with natural flavours made from natural quality ingredients.

Ice cream experts from Europe and North America come to supervise production on regular basis.

Some of the new ice cream products that have recently been produced and launched locally

are:

— The ice cream candy bar: this candy bar includes caramel and all coating of rich chocolate.

— The ice cream bite size: these are miniature rich ice cream coated with premium chocolate and chopped almonds, made in multiple of flavours.

— Ice cream sandwiches: made with specially made round biscuits, stuffed with premium ice cream. These are available in several flavours.

Ata Ali plans to export its new ice cream to international markets.

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Special new unique

Jordan Times

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Way will be found

HIS Majesty King Hussein has just concluded another round of shuttle diplomacy in Damascus, where he held talks with President Hafez Al Assad, in relentless pursuance of his goal of unifying Arab ranks on national issues. There is no doubt that the Gulf conflict figured highly on the agenda of the Sept. 1 summit between King Hussein and President Assad. The crisis in the Arabian Gulf is heating up again, and no one knows for sure what is in store for the world if the July 20 U.N. Security Council resolution is not supported very soon with a complementary resolution calling for the application of sanctions against the warring country which does adhere unequivocally to the ceasefire resolution.

It is an open secret that there were disagreements among the Arab ranks in the recent Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis, especially on the subject of the Gulf. Jordan's voice, as transmitted through its foreign minister, was loud and clear in pressing for effective, collective Arab measures against Iran in view of its "ominous silence" on the ceasefire resolution. Arab foreign ministers are due to meet again on Sept. 20, with the intention of reviewing relations with Iran should it persist in its denunciation of the international decision. Surely, at a time when the members of the U.N. Security Council are deliberating their next move as called for in the July 20 resolution, they will be watching very carefully and critically the Arab countries' moves, as revealed in their meetings under the auspices of the Arab League. Should Arab resolve to end the Gulf war slacken, and collective Arab support for Iraq weaken, the signal to the international community, and especially to the U.N. Security Council, will be anything but positive and encouraging for the international determination to put an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

Seen against this backdrop, King Hussein's recent visit to Damascus is most important, and comes at a critical juncture in the continuous efforts by Jordan to consolidate Arab ranks behind Iraq's will to end the war with Iran, forthwith, and resolve the contentious issues between itself and Iran in a peaceful way, as called for in Resolution 598. Syria's relations with Iran can certainly be put to a constructive use, and we are hopeful that Damascus has sufficient leverage with the leaders of Iran to influence them in the direction of accepting the ceasefire resolution. Should the fighting between Iran and Iraq escalate even more in the coming few days, it might become too late for any country, or any group of countries, to act effectively to reverse the tide of heightened hostilities. Syria, after all, is supportive of U.N. Security Council resolution, and that support was reaffirmed in the last Arab foreign ministers meeting. There is no doubt, in view of Syria's declared position on the need to put into effect an immediate ceasefire to the Gulf war as called for in Resolution 598, the last summit meeting between King Hussein and President Assad would lend additional, effective support to the process of peaceful resolution of the conflict. In this vein, the Syrian prime minister's visit to Amman today, as well as the Jordanian prime minister's working trip to Saudi Arabia, come as part of Jordan's relentless and determined efforts to close Arab ranks at this critical time. We know that where there is a will, there is a way, and Anuman is determined to find that way.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Murphy's contradictions

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Richard Murphy revealed through an interview via satellite on Tuesday that the United States continues to hold on to its position vis-à-vis the Middle East question. He said that Washington supports direct negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis to reach a settlement. In the same interview Mr. Murphy said that the presence of foreign naval powers in the Gulf waters was to help end the on-going conflict and the raids on tankers. He said that there should be a negotiated settlement between Iraq and Iran under United Nations umbrella to end the Gulf conflict, but that the Arab-Israeli conflict should be settled through direct talks. This is a clear contradiction in American policy with regard to issues in the Middle East, as any observer can see. Contradiction also appeared in Mr. Murphy's expression of regret over Iraq's resumption of its raids on Iranian economic installations and tankers, although he realises that Iraq had given Iran and the international community ample time to implement Security Council Resolution 598 that would end the conflict. Iran is clearly stalling, and does not want to implement the resolution which it did not accept, and it is unreasonable to allow its forces to be fuelled and armed with weapons bought with the revenues of exported oil.

Al Dustour: King visits Damascus

KING Hussein paid a visit to Damascus Tuesday in the course of his ongoing consultations with the Syrian leader, and in pursuit of the two countries' efforts to bring about solidarity between Arab countries. The visit and the talks gain an added importance as they are taking place against a background of serious developments in the Arab region. The present Arab situation calls for closer consultations and coordination among the leaderships of Arab states. Through these talks, the two leaders are bound to come to agreement on all positive steps that should be taken in ending differences among Arab capitals and launching serious joint action, capable of helping the Arab Nation to confront its challenges and dangers. It is through the direct and wise leadership of the King and the Syrian president that bilateral ties have been strengthened and joint economic cooperation given added momentum, a move considered serving the Arab people in general and the peoples of Syria and Jordan in particular. We hope that the King's endeavours on the national level in cooperation with the Syrian president will eventually achieve success, and boost inter-Arab relations.

Sawt Al Shaab: In service of the nation

JORDANIAN-Syrian cooperation in the present circumstances are badly needed to help the Arab Nation in its confrontation with different challenges. The King's visit to Syria and his consultations with President Assad are at the foundation of Jordanian national policy to help the Arab Nation in this important endeavour. The two countries are bent on pursuing efforts for ending differences among Arab states and refusing solidarity among Arab states for enabling them to carry out joint action. King Hussein's visit to Syria underlines the importance of Arab consensus and unity of ranks among Arab states in the face of common threats and looming dangers. All the Arabs are invited to join hands now in the face of adversity and in confrontation with all dangers. All the Arabs are invited to take a unified position with regard to the Middle East question, the crisis in Lebanon and the situation in the Gulf. They are required to take steps that can rid the nation of its chronic problems and its bleeding. For this noble aim Jordan has been dedicating its efforts and its resources; and the King's meetings with Arab leaders are designed to achieve that end.

U.S. TV documentary looks at Israeli occupation

By Geoffrey Aronson

WASHINGTON — One evening in July, the American television network, NBC, aired a one hour documentary commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the June 1967 war.

The title alone — *Six Days Plus Twenty Years — A Dream Is Dying* — offered a hint of what was to come. NBC gave American viewers a remarkably critical look at Israel's twenty-year occupation of the West Bank. The programme prompted outrage among Israel's supporters and praise from Arab-Americans.

The documentary is yet another indication of the progressive disintegration among America's liberal elite — the major media included — with the "myth" of Israel's "benevolent" occupation so willingly embraced and propagated since 1967.

The one-hour programme was hosted by NBC's leading newscaster Tom Brokaw. His presence lent an immediate aura of credibility and impartiality to the programme itself. What Brokaw says, Americans believe to be the Truth. Brokaw's intent during this programme was to demonstrate to ill-informed Americans how the mythical Israel they love has been destroyed by its hostile occupation of lands which it has ruled since June 1967. Israel, he suggested, is a classic case of how it is possible to "win the war but lose the peace."

The vocabulary of violent conflict dominated discussion of Israeli rule in a manner rarely, if ever, seen on American television. Israel was described as a "warrior state." Jerusalem a city of "victors and vanquished." The

West Bank, said Brokaw, was "conquered" territory.

Such descriptions may seem tame, but to Americans treated to a sanitised version of Middle Eastern realities, it was indeed hard-hitting.

The documentary began its work in Hebron, an appropriate choice. For nowhere else has the conflict between Arab and Jew for control of Palestine been so violent and brutal, nowhere else has Jewish passions and exploitation of Israeli power been so evident and hate-filled.

Brokaw described the constant, almost warlike tension between Arab and Jew in this ancient city. A young Arab girl exclaims her hatred for her Jewish neighbours and declares that she will never speak with them. Jewish settlers from the outpost

of Kiryat Arba bordering Hebron, reasoning that their claim to the city begins with Abraham, no doubt strained the credulity of most Americans. From these scenes and others, it quickly becomes obvious that Moshe Dayan's policy of "living together forever" has no relevance to what happens these days in Hebron.

The camera followed a unit of Israeli soldiers on a nervous patrol through Hebron's Casbah. A stabbing of a Jewish settler occurs nearby, and the cameras continue to roll as young Palestinian men are rounded up for interrogation. The camera is telling the story of Israeli rule as Palestinians see it — a perspective foreign to American television viewers.

Note is taken of Israel's practice of inflicting collective punishment upon families and entire towns. One scene showed Israeli soldiers sealing off part of a house belonging to a family of a Palestinian commando. Another followed troops as they blew up the top story of another home. The articulate outrage — expressed in well-accented English — of a Palestinian woman offered Americans a vivid contrast to American television viewers.

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His son was killed in the Sinai during a 1970 battle against Egypt.

Angel owns Israel's largest bakery, and like the owners of many Israeli enterprises, he has many Palestinian employees from the occupied territories. NBC showed the faces of some of these workers, smiling as they baked bread for a number of customers...including the IDF. But as they bake bread the camera records them singing Palestinian nationalist songs. In this manner, the programme succeeded in going beyond the stereotypes. It portrays the injustice but also gives a hint of the many ambiguities and ironies of Palestinian life under occupation.

Dani Angel fought with the pre-state Hagana (self-defence forces) and later against Jordan.

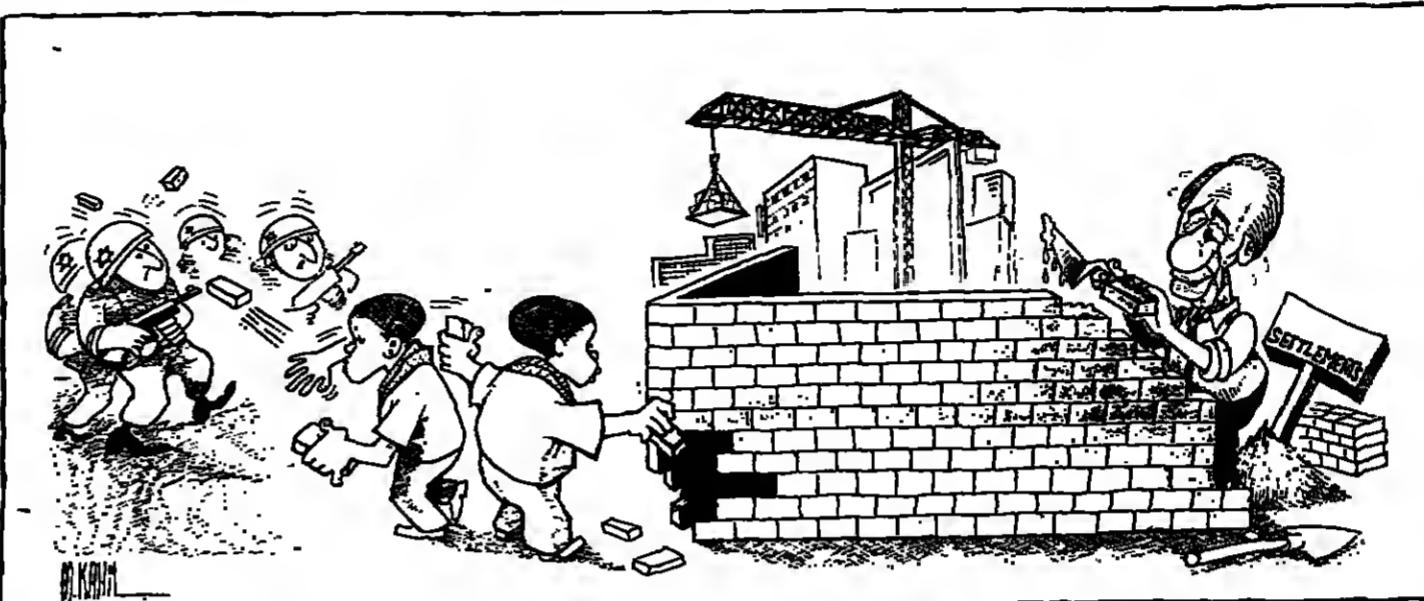
racist antipathy toward Arabs is his political calling card.

"You move them to Jordan," came the answer.

"I'm not going to go," said Kahane, his short smile turning into a snarl.

The choice facing Israel, declared the documentary to its audience of millions, "is between democracy and tyranny." NBC took the unprecedented step of raising the prospect of an Israeli-style apartheid in "Greater Israel" before an American audience a two-tiered system in which Jews are afforded all the rights and privileges of full citizenship while Palestinians remain second-class subjects. Never has an American audience been treated to such a prospect, whose structural and legal elements are already well-entrenched.

The show's producers could not resist a happy ending. Even this had some educational value, however. A Palestinian intellectual and nationalist Sari Nusseibeh, talked civilly, and even shared a laugh with an Israeli opposite. Both appeared to agree on the need for mutual recognition and national self-determination for the Palestinians. American audiences were made aware that the Palestinian case has merit. If a Palestinian and an Israeli can agree, who are they to stand in the way? — Arab News, Jeddah.



Vanunu says he's prisoner of conscience

By Joan Mower
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mordechai Vanunu, the former Israeli nuclear technician charged with espionage and treason, says he is a "prisoner of conscience" and has no regrets about revealing secrets of Israel's nuclear programme.

"I did my best for making this world more safe, less wars, and I did a small step to the peace in this country," Vanunu wrote in June to Judy Zimmet, an American girlfriend.

Zimmet, a 31-year-old computer operator, said in a telephone interview that she has received more than 30 letters this year from Vanunu, whose trial began Sunday in Jerusalem.

Reporters have been barred from the trial that stemmed from Vanunu's revelations about Israel's nuclear programme. Last Oct. 5, the Sunday Times of London, relying on Vanunu's information, reported that Israel had stockpiled at least 100 nuclear

weapons and ranks sixth among the world's nuclear powers.

Vanunu, 33, worked for several years at the Dimona nuclear facility in the Negev before leaving to Australia last year.

Vanunu disappeared from London shortly before the article appeared and his family said that he had been lured to Rome by a female Israeli agent and then abducted. Israeli officials have provided no explanation for how Vanunu surfaced in Israel, but they claim no international laws were broken.

In his letters to Zimmet, Vanunu said he could not talk about how he returned to Israel.

The letters, addressed to "My dear Judy," were written in a small printed script. They contained many typographical and grammatical errors, prompting Vanunu to apologise for his command of English.

"How? where? when? by whom. All of this questions I can't write, and also about my work in the nuclear reactor," Vanunu said. He added he could

not discuss "the way bow they brought me."

But Vanunu complained that Israel's internal security, Shin Bet, had spread "disinformation" about him.

The handwriting on the letters, several of which Zimmet provided to the Associated Press, was similar to the writing to a letter that Vanunu wrote Harriet Nestle, an American anti-war activist.

In the letter, dated July 22, Vanunu said he had a "deep, strong" belief that "I did good thing and no one can change what I have done."

"I believe that more and more people will understand that it is good for them what I have done," he said. "They condemn me as a spy, but I was not a spy," he said.

Mrs. Nestle said Vanunu's letter came in response to one that she had written him.

Vanunu's letters to Zimmet are often rambling and contain drawings of a cross and trees.

Although he refers to the "very bad condition in this prison," he

does not spell out details of his treatment.

"All my condition is one big long torture," he said. "They keep isolate and they didn't give me the letters and the censor my letter not only secret things. I don't have the same privilege as all the prisoners in Israel."

Vanunu complained that prison officials wanted him "to wear a hat, glasses and beard. After one month I said I don't want to wear all this. I shaved my beard, gave them their bat and glasses."

Despite his confinement, Vanunu said in a June 8 letter that "My health is very well... My strength is strong, and I feel very good all this because I am not a criminal."

"I am a prisoner of conscience and I have a lot of courage," he said. He attributed his mental fortitude to his strong Christian beliefs.

Vanunu, who was born in Morocco, converted to Christianity last year to Australia where he was worked as a taxi-driver after leaving Israel.

'Death squads' terrorise refugees in L.A.

By John Pine
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles was a beacon of tranquility for 200,000 Salvadorean who fled their homeland's civil war, until the long shadow of right-wing "death squads" was cast over the city.

A wave of physical and psychological terror began on July 7 with the abduction of a 37-year-old Salvadorean woman, identified only by her first name, Yanira.

She said she was beaten, sexually abused, burned with cigarettes and tortured for six hours by two Salvadorean men who accused her of being a communist, interrogated her about local activists and left her alive to pass the word that "we are here."

Her kidnapping was followed by threatening letters and telephone calls to some 30 local activists who oppose U.S. military aid to El Salvador. A popular Roman Catholic priest disclosed that he had received threatening letter.

The FBI then stepped in. Father Luis Olivares, pastor of the largest Hispanic parish in Los Angeles, had just returned from a visit to Washington where he and other activists had handed in a petition against U.S. military aid to Central America.

When he returned, he received a single sheet of paper bearing the initials "E.M.," which he said stood for Escuadrón de la Muerte, or death squad. Below the initials was the number "1."

Olivares' Our Lady Queen of Angeles Church was among the first in the United States to join the Sanctuary Movement, which assists Salvadorean and other Central American refugees who have entered the United States illegally.

He said the letter brought to mind those sent to dozens of priests, nuns and church workers in El Salvador who were killed by the right-wing squads because they were perceived as communists for demanding social change.

Two days after Olivares received the letter, and hours after the FBI announced its probe, a 31-year-old Guatemalan immigrant told police she was abducted at gunpoint and questioned for four hours about her work with Salvadorean refugees before she was released unharmed.

In the most recent incident, apart from telephoned threats to individuals, the Guatemalan consulate here said it received a letter on July 31 purporting to be from the death squad.

Police said the letter was very similar to the one sent to Olivares, but it also contained a

sentence in Spanish warning: "Don't get involved in the affairs of the Salvadoreans."

The reports of death squad-style incidents coincided with a congressional debate leading up to a July 29 vote by the U.S. House of Representatives to suspend deportation of nearly 500,000 illegal immigrants from El Salvador and about 200,000 from Nicaragua for up to two years pending a study of conditions in their home countries.

The Reagan administration's current standard for approving asylum requests is that individuals demonstrate the likelihood of persecution should they return home.

It has granted nearly all requests by Nicaraguans, where U.S.-financed contra rebels are fighting the Sandinista government, but has rejected most Salvadorean asylum petitions.

Harold Ezell, the outspoken regional commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, suggested late last month that reports of death-squad incidents should be seen largely as an "orchestrated (public relations) campaign" by the religious Sanctuary Movement to influence the debate.

His remarks were roundly attacked by local politicians and church leaders as "outrageous and insensitive."

On Aug. 11, the Los Angeles City Council approved a resolution condemning the death threats and Ezell's comments, and granting \$10,000 in emergency aid to Central American refugees.

The Salvadorean embassy in Washington denied the Salvadorean government had anything to do with the threats, saying death squad activities had all but ended there.

While no proof has emerged, those who have been threatened said they saw no context for the incidents except a political one.

"There is absolutely no other explanation for these attacks and threats beyond some political motivation," said Mark Rosen-

baum, general counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union of southern California, which is advising those who have received threats.

Linton Joaquin, an attorney with the Central American refugee centre, praised police and FBI handling of the cases and added: "There certainly is a strong impression that it is an organised effort and that certainly suggests that it could be coming from El Salvador."

He said he had granted nearly all requests by Nicaraguans, where U.S

Al Kurd sings Palestinian melodies in the U.S.

The following article is reprinted from ADC Times, the newsletter of the Washington-based Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee.

TWENTY years ago, in the wake of the June 1967 war, a young Palestinian blacksmith with a keen interest in the *oud*, the traditional Arabic musical instrument which fathered the Western *lute*, left his forge to focus his energies toward finding a musical voice for the heady currents of Palestinian nationalism then sweeping through the newly occupied West Bank. In so doing, Mustafa Al Kurd unwittingly became a part of a new phenomenon underway throughout Palestinian society: The articulation of Palestinian society: The articulation of Palestinian nationalist sentiment through cultural means.

By the time ADC sponsored Al Kurd's ten-city U.S. tour in June of this year, the musician had developed a considerable following, both within Palestine and abroad. He had recorded and distributed eight records and nine cassettes, is currently involved with the renowned Nuzha/El Hakawati Theatre in Jerusalem and has inspired an entire generation of Palestinians with such songs as *Hatt al-Sikeh, hatt al-manjal* ("Give me the plow, give me the sickle"), which implores

the Palestinian people not to leave their land.

The tour, which featured performances by Al Kurd and the Al Quds musical, was sponsored by ADC and endorsed by 15 Palestinian organisations in the U.S. Concerts were held in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Miami, Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Boston, Washington and New York, thanks to the tremendous organisational efforts exerted by ADC field staffers and activists. All proceeds are to benefit the music department at Nuzha/El Hakawati.

ADC sponsored the tour as a tribute to the spirit of Palestinian artists who have lived and laboured under twenty years of Israeli occupation. The concerts were also part of ADC's ongoing programme of promoting Arab-American cultural activities and served as a focal point for organising the Arab-American community in the cities involved. Over 1,500 attended the concerts.

The performances were significant in that they mark the first time that the Palestinian artist has attempted to cultivate the Arab-American community. While Al Kurd is well known "hak home," his appearance in this country was the first exposure many Arab-Americans have had to his music, particularly those who were not living in Palestine



Mustafa Al Kurd

during the past decade when his music first became popular.

Al Kurd is especially well known among Palestinian intellectual circles, where his national lyrics, sung with a distinctively Palestinian accent, appeal to the political instincts of his listeners and to their sense of musical appreciation. His songs have set to music lyrics from such renowned Palestinian poets as Mahmoud Darwish, Samih Al Qasim, Rashid Husayn, Tawfiq Zayyat and Kamal Nasir.

Al Kurd was born a blacksmith's son in Jerusalem in 1945, shortly before the first Arab-Israeli conflict left the city divided. He first learned to play the *oud* at age 17, eventually leaving his trade as a blacksmith to devote himself to music and other cultural outlets in the aftermath of the 1967 war. He assisted in the formation of the Jerusalem Club in 1969, which offered cultural and athletic activities for Palestinians and performed in the musical *The Fugitive*, one of his first formal artistic endeavours.

By the early 1970s, he branched off to become involved in the burgeoning Palestinian

theatre movement, performing with the Balalaik theatre and folkloric dance troupe. It was during this period that he began to attract attention with songs such as *Hatt al-Sikeh, hatt al-manjal*, which blended traditional Arabic melodies with political themes. During this time, he was also associated with Bethlehem University, where he served as coordinator of artistic activity from 1973 to 1976.

In late 1975, Al Kurd was arrested by occupation authorities and imprisoned for nearly one year. After his release he spent eight years in exile, both in Beirut and Germany, where he studied music history and gave performances to international audiences.

Shortly before his return to Palestine in 1983, Al Kurd received an invitation from Jerusalem's El Hakawati theatre troupe to compose the music for its 1983-84 musical, *The 1001 Nights of a Stone Thrower*, and he went on to become more extensively involved with the provocative Palestinian theatre group.

El Hakawati ("The Storyteller") was formed in 1977 as a Palestinian theatre troupe attempting to combine the essence of Palestinian Arab folk traditions with Western contemporary theatrical performance —

no small feat, considering the lack of a theatrical tradition in the Arab World.

Over the years, the group, currently comprising 15 members from both the occupied territories and from within Israel, has performed shows such as *In the Name of the Father, the Mother and the Son*, *Mahjoob Mahjoob and Ali the Galilean*, to acclaim both in Palestine and abroad. El Hakawati's performances, some of which shift between Arabic, Hebrew and English, have also been praised in the Israeli press.

In May 1984, El Hakawati began operating from the old Nuzha theatre in East Jerusalem, which the group had renovated at considerable cost. Now known as Nuzha/El Hakawati Theatre, the troupe currently performs in the theatre's 400-seat main stage.

Ever since returning to Jerusalem Al Kurd has been intimately involved with the theatre. He was instrumental in founding a music department at Nuzha/El Hakawati and arranged funding for its activities, which include classes in traditional Arabic musical instruments such as the oud.

Al Kurd's songs continue to inspire a new generation of young Palestinians hardened by the occupation yet committed to continued resistance. ADC is proud to have been part of that process.

Randa Habib's Corner

Watching on the 2nd Circle

PLEASE do not take me as a nagger, if I once again talk about the Second Circle. The fact is that I feel I am entitled to some privilege as I spend most of my day looking at that circle, where my office is situated.

After much work and money were spent on the Second Circle's "waterfalls" water is not "falling" any more on that circle. It is completely dry, after becoming a place of fun for children who took the habit of jumping in the water, splashing all passers-by and endangering their lives when running across the road in front of speeding cars.

That monument, today, is just a plain ugly wall, surrounded by benches. People sitting on those benches look so sad, as if they were in front of a walling wall. But the big stone wheel is still there, in good shape, thank God. However, the grass underneath has been uprooted. Why? Maybe because someone feels that cement will be much nicer there, or that it may be easier to clean.

So, with a cement ground, a white stone wheel, and a big, brown, stone waterfall (without water), what other surprise awaits us on the Second Circle?

If anything more exciting happens here, count on me to inform you immediately, as I am watching it ever so closely.

World Pill poll reveals false fears

By Elizabeth Robinson

Four women surveyed thought the Pill increased the risks of uterine cancer. Yet it is well documented that Pill use reduces the risk of a major type of uterine cancer (endometrial cancer) by half.

"We now know from the United States and all the other data that the Pill has a protective effect on various reproductive cancers," says Dr. Senanayake. It does increase the risk of cardiovascular disease — particularly among Pill-users who smoke cigarettes — but it protects against ovarian cancer, pelvic inflammatory disease, sterility, venereal disease and anaemia.

Dr. Sriani Senanayake, Medical Director of the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka, says that many patients she sees are concerned that the Pill has harmful side-effects. "They ask if we are sure it doesn't cause cancer," she says. "They are not so aware of its cardiovascular risks."

The belief that contraceptives cause cancer, in particular, is not new. In the 1920s and 1930s, the diaphragm and condom were accused of causing cancer. "Most contraceptives at one time or other have been accused of causing cancer," says Dr. Malcolm Potts, President of Family Health International. "The fact that contraceptives have something to do with sex seems to set up an environment where risks are exaggerated or misunderstood."

More than 60 million women currently use the Pill. In the 30 years since women started using it, the Pill has become the most studied drug in human history.

Most women who take the Pill appreciate that it is a convenient and effective form of contraception.

— People features.

The other battle for the Gulf

Television companies are fighting each other for the best pictures of the Gulf war. Tony Walker adds up the cost.

BAHRAIN — U.S. television companies have long had a reputation for lavish spending in pursuit of a big international story, but few stories can have placed such a burden on news budgets recently as the Gulf crisis.

While the U.S. and Iran endlessly manoeuvre against each other in the Gulf, a parallel struggle for exclusive pictures is being waged among Western TV networks. The TV men's struggle in costing their proprietors tens of thousands of dollars a day.

Competition is particularly intense among the big U.S. networks which have news crews, including cameramen and soundmen, producers, editors and reporters strung out along more than 1,000 kilometres of the Gulf region. Some of their crews are in boats, others are in helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft — and all are hoping to capture a scene that will lead the night's TV news.

"People are benefitting from tourism but the bad thing is they are becoming business-minded, they are getting greedy," the Mir said.

"The young do not want to work in the fields any more like their parents. They think it is beneath them."

The Mir fears Hunza may be losing some of its traditions. "Ten years ago we had a lot of freedom. We did what we wanted. People used to drink a lot of 'Hunza water,' now there is no drinking."

"Hunza water" is wine made from the vines which once grew all over the valley. The people also made a potent brew from mulberries but alcohol is banned for Muslims in Pakistan.

It is not the foreign tourists the Hunzakuts fear but the Pakistanis.

All local families have agreed not to sell their property to Pakistanis to prevent them moving in on the lucrative tourist trade, the Mir said.

"We get a lot of Pakistanis here now," said Mohammad Jan, one of a group of old men drying apricots in the sun. "Before we had no locks on our doors, now we have to lock them."

"Our women are not in purdah like theirs," said another. "These outsiders come and stare at our women working in the fields."

The Mir knows that Shangri-la is fading away but he is determined to save a bit of it.

"I don't know whether we will maintain the character of this place."

"We're going to have to maintain as much of a presence as possible in order to have maximum flexibility," said an American TV producer. He disclosed that the U.S. networks were even handing out small video cameras to captains of commercial ships plying the Gulf waters in the hope that, if something happens, they might get exclusive pictures.

The cost of maintaining one TV crew in the Gulf is estimated to range between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a day.

The networks — CBS, ABC, and NBC — each have at least three crews in the region. This means that their individual weekly bills for covering the Gulf story probably exceed \$250,000.

Apart from salaries, principal costs include daily satellite feeds at about \$3,000 per 10-minute session. Most networks are feeding material to their home bases twice a day.

Hire of helicopters, aircraft and boats in the treacherous Gulf region is proving very expensive.

Networks are paying up to \$3,000 a day for boat charters and between \$800 and \$2,000 an hour for helicopters.

One of the three main helicopter charter companies operating from the United Arab Emirates said difficulty securing war risk insurance was adding to charter costs.

Other costs of covering the Gulf story include accommodation and communications bills in a region where hotel tariffs are among the highest in the world.

Because the story has stretched network resources to the limit, these organisations have been obliged to hire in contract crews to back up their staff employees.

The London rate for a crew, including cameraman and soundman plus equipment, is \$1,000 a day for a normal eight-hour shift.

This fee does not include overtime or travel and accommodation costs.

Networks are also incurring additional costs in actually getting film material from boats in the Gulf to locations from where this footage can be fed by satellite to home offices.

One British TV company has been using a high-speed launch to dash out into Gulf waters to retrieve video cassettes from a TV crew bobbing around on a 156 ft supply boat taking pictures of passing convoys. That exercise is costing about \$1,500 a journey.

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Despite a probable impression among viewers that ships are huddled together in the strategic waterway, they are in fact spread out over a big area and are often hard to find. The U.S. Navy is not making the TV job easier by keeping convoy movements secret — Financial Times feature.

OPENING HIS NEW CLINIC

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DATES: 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 SEPT. 1987

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R)	Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.
One Sterling	1.6458/68
One U.S. dollar	1.3150/55
	1.8080/90
	2.0365/75
	1.4915/25
	37.56/58
	6.0500/50
	1309/1310
	141.15/25
	6.3600/50
	6.6320/70
	6.9600/50
One ounce of gold	458.00/458.50

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices were lower in late trading despite U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's comment in a radio interview that last month's one point rise in base rates was sufficient, dealers said.

A lower opening on Wall Street quickly reversed the market's knee-jerk upward reaction to Lawson's statement but dealers said volume remains thin with many operators unsure of the near-term direction. September FTSE 100 index futures were trading at 2,260, underlining the uncertain outlook.

At 1420 GMT, the FTSE 100 index stood 14 points lower at 2,258.8 despite some encouraging company results Wednesday. Dealers said Lawson's remark had little lasting effect on the market as most operators were not expecting an upward move in base rates in the near to medium term.

After Tuesday's U.K. balance of payments data for July, fears over rising inflationary pressures had subsided, with sterling reacting calmly to the larger than expected current account deficit.

Analysts had pointed out that lower exports were caused by a seasonal drop in oil output.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is your day to go directly to those in positions of power or authority and gain their assistance in a business proposition. Be sure to show your appreciation for any help.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle any tasks which have been on the back burner for far too long. Take it easy tonight after a busy day.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can make the future brighter by utilizing new ideas and digging into the right sources for information.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Today is a fine time to show more affection for your mate and get good results. The evening will be a happy one.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) This is a good day to put the finishing touches on an important business agreement. Drive carefully.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You'll get much better results if you add some enthusiasm to your present activities. A co-worker can give you fine support.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Taking a little time for pleasure today would lighten your spirits and bring more popularity. Get to bed early tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Entertain some interesting persons in your home tonight. This can bring much happiness to you and your kin.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take a short and joyous trip to a place where you can find the information you've been needing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Find a way to add to your assets so that you can get more pleasure from your leisure time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Arrange a get-together with friends whose sense of humor you enjoy. Entertain them nicely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be more concerned with the practical advancement opportunities around you, and stop daydreaming so much.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A reliable older friend will listen to your wishes and give you good advice on how best to go about gaining them.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will appear to be quite reticent, but could become very successful in business or other practical professions. Your progeny will delight in doing helpful things for those who have rendered favors to him or her. Recordings will be particularly interesting to your child.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There may be some setbacks or difficulties which could delay your routines, so be prepared to handle them. Be tactful and diplomatic in your associations with others.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) This is not a good day to ask favors of others or to try to force your ambitions. Avoid a friend who has a chip on the shoulder.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You want to get started on a new course of action, but this should be put off. Avoid an official who is angry.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Steer clear of an alteration with your mate today. You are not sure how to handle a duty, so shelve it for a while.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Try to soothe the feelings of an associate, but be sure not to do anything to make the matter worse.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Use more than usual care to avoid doing any damage to your home or office. Try to regain your lately-lost composure.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't allow yourself to be talked into a too-expensive entertainment this morning. Protect your health tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Try to help your family with their problems instead of harping on your own. Avoid a friend who is too noisy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be wary of reckless drivers on the highway, and use caution in your own driving as well. Use tact in communications.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Forget the financial advice given to you by others who are not experts. Taking such lead would lead you astray.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Taking on your mate's worries would not be wise at this time. Postpone seeing friends until a later evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Listen to the complaints of others, but don't get personally involved. Be helpful to a friend in trouble.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Give your full attention to civic and credit matters. Be sure to avoid a friend who is acting strangely tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be of a serious nature and very precise in keeping promises and dealing with schoolwork. Your progeny would do quite well in business or finances and should have the education alighted along those lines. Teach him or her while young not to be too pushy.

Dollar comes under pressure

LONDON (R) — Jittery investors sold dollars on Wednesday and it was only the prospect of further central bank intervention and to a lesser extent uncertainty arising from Gulf developments which lent support to the U.S. currency.

Investors were worried about just how far leading economic nations would go on defending the dollar with support buying.

"What is lacking is a clear statement from (Federal Reserve Chairman Alan) Greenspan," said Mr. Michael Schnirel, technical analyst at Irving Trust in Frankfurt.

West Germany's Bundesbank bought \$48.9 million as the dollar was fixed lower in Frankfurt at 1.8080 marks after 1.8116 on Tuesday, dealers said.

The Bank of Japan intervened on Wednesday and Japanese vice minister for international affairs, Mr. Toyoo Gyohten, told Reuters the United States joined in recent coordinated intervention to support the dollar.

However comments by U.S. Representative Clayton Yeutter that he saw little hope of a major improvement in the U.S. trade deficit this year continued to depress the market.

Mr. Yeutter's statements have fuelled uncertainty about the U.S. authorities' resolve to halt further dollar declines.

Mr. Gyohten, anxious to dismiss market talk that major nations were only half-heartedly acting to buttress the dollar, said they stood ready to take strong action if needed to achieve exchange rate stability.

"If there is unexpected strong pressure again happening in the market, the authorities' reaction will also be a very determined and strong one," he told Reuters.

Gold bullion was fixed in London a little higher at \$456.55 an ounce thanks to the dollar's

weakness after Tuesday's afternoon fix of \$453.75.

The price of Britain's benchmark crude oil edged up on news that Iranian revolutionary guards had attacked four tankers and a cargo ship in the Gulf since Tuesday night.

Brent for October delivery was quoted at \$18.70 a barrel after closing at \$18.55 on Tuesday night.

Investors were preoccupied with the major industrial nations' strategy for currency markets and world trade.

Both the Bundesbank and the Swiss National Bank bought small amounts of dollars on Tuesday.

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IMF estimates Third World capital flight from 1974-1985 at \$300 billion

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Residents of Third World countries sent up to \$300 billion to the United States and Western Europe during 1974-85, slowing growth in their homelands, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates.

More than half the money came from Latin American countries, the heaviest Third World debtors, the IMF said in a recent report.

The World Bank, the IMF's sister organization, estimates Third World debt at \$1.085 trillion.

The IMF report said such countries increasingly were borrowing abroad at the same time as their citizens were sending their own capital elsewhere. Borrowing and capital flight followed much the same pattern.

The bank and the fund are owned by the same 151 governments, with the United States holding the biggest voting power. The bank lends money to help develop poor countries, while the fund mobilizes loans to help them out of financial trouble.

Mr. Richard Feinberg, vice president of the Overseas Development Council, says some of the flight money flowed back last year — \$1.3 billion to Nigeria, \$900 million to Mexico and \$800 million to Chile. But there were new outflows as well, including \$1.7 billion from the Philippines and \$1 billion from Brazil.

"Evidently, much more must be done by the major debtors generally to create the environment and build the private-sector confidence that will attract large inflows of foreign investment and

encourage return of significant amounts," the bank said in a recent report.

The World Bank, the IMF's sister organization, estimates Third World debt at \$1.085 trillion.

they have refused to work with OPEC, but Mr. Lukman said crude was too important a commodity to be prey to market forces.

"Oil prices cannot be left to the so-called market forces, due to the economic and strategic nature of this exhaustible commodity... and the increasingly chaotic and highly speculative nature of the world oil market," he said.

Oil industry analysts say that domestic oil production in the United States, Britain and elsewhere is less economically viable when crude fetches \$10 a barrel than when it is around the current \$18 mark.

Mr. Lukman thanked producers which had cooperated with OPEC, but said that "there were nevertheless a few producers who stubbornly refused to act to the common good, despite the fact that they have subsequently been able to reap the benefit of OPEC's action." He did not name any countries in this context.

Mr. Lukman was bitter about the free oil market, which marked prices down by about \$3 a barrel last month because of industry reports that the group was producing about three million barrels per day (b/d) more than the 16.6 million b/d limit it set itself in June.

Many non-OPEC producers, such as Norway, the Soviet Union — which has the world's biggest output — and Egypt have promised to restrain their output to support the \$18 price. The U.S. and Britain have said no.

Both governments say the free market should set oil prices, and

never return, Mr. Feinberg said in a telephone interview. His council is a private non-profit group which reviews Third World issues.

The IMF study says that in the relatively tranquil years that followed the 1974-5 recession and the first big increase in oil price, outflows averaged \$15 billion a year.

With the second round of oil price increases, coupled with rising interest rates and an extended recession, outflows doubled to about \$30 billion.

He stated that many Third World debtors had adopted austerity policies that were "courageous, sometimes foolhardy, beyond what you could expect as politically acceptable and therefore dangerous because of the risk of destabilization."

He pointedly accused the United States and Japan of failing to help the Third World.

He said if nations which

mainly closed in their natural resources" devoted as large a share of their gross national product (GDP) to economic aid "as do Canada, France and West Germany," the Third World debt would be largely eliminated.

"We must defeat the egotism of some industrialized countries, including some of the most powerful ones," he said.

He noted that the seven Western industrialized nations had agreed in Venice last June to devote 0.70 per cent of their GNP to foreign aid eventually.

France would reach 0.55 per cent next year, its highest aid level ever, he pledged.

"We are ourselves in large part responsible for the indebtedness of these countries, whom we have induced to borrow, often by dubious means, or to invest, often in an unreasonable way, when we saw a profit to be made," he said.

"Then, when things turn sour, those same people who acted so shamefully withdraw saying they must protect their interests," Mr.

Chirac added.

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Hyundai workers resume strike in South Korea

SEOUL (R) — Nearly 30,000 workers at South Korea's top exporting group went back on strike on Wednesday as the government reported a dramatic plunge in the trade surplus because of labour upheaval.

Union leaders told reporters the workers walked off the job on Wednesday after union and management failed to agree on pay hikes on Tuesday, the government-set deadline for a settlement.

The protesters blamed management for being insincere in the negotiations, while company officials said the workers were demanding an unacceptable 17.9 per cent rise.

That incident forced the government to step in as mediator for the first time since an epidemic of labour strife began in late July.

The Ulsan dispute which paralysed all Hyundai factories, including the one producing the best-selling Excel sub-compact car, was the largest and most dramatic show of worker power since July when the military-backed government, under pressure after weeks of street protests, agreed to democratic reforms.

The trade ministry said on Wednesday that labour disputes were responsible for August's poor trade performance, when the country recorded its lowest trade surplus in 16 months.

The ministry said the customs trade surplus plunged to \$94 million in August from \$700 million in the previous month.

It was the smallest surplus since July, 700 were still affected by the trade account swing into the black in May 1986.

The Hyundai workers had been negotiating with management on

Ileto: Philippines to probe possible U.S. role in coup

MANILA (Agencies) — Philippine Defence Secretary Rafael Ileto said on Wednesday the government was investigating the possibility of U.S. involvement in last weekend's bloody coup attempt.

Earlier, the United States embassy in Manila strongly denied any U.S. government personnel were involved and reiterated President Ronald Reagan's support for President Corazon Aquino.

"We have not proven (it)," Gen. Ileto told reporters when asked if he thought the United States had played a role in the failed attempt to overthrow Mrs. Aquino.

He was speaking after a cabinet meeting in which Mrs. Aquino's spokesman Teodoro Benigno said was "frank and at times blunt" in its review of the uprising in which at least 40 people died and more than 270 were wounded.

"There is speculation about (foreign involvement) because his-

more than 40 deaths and 270 injuries.

He did not mention any country. A Philippine politician said on Tuesday leaders of the uprising may have been influenced by extremist right-wingers from the United States.

Raul Manglapus, chairman of the Philippine Senate Committee on Defence and National Security, also said in a television interview that Mrs. Aquino's ousting might have meant the country's return to right-wing dictatorship.

"I am not predicting but I am saying that... we should not be surprised that this is not the last (coup)," he said.

More than 1,000 rebel officers and soldiers have been arrested for involvement in the fifth revolt against President Aquino's 18-month-old government.

Gen. Ramos on Wednesday said the armed forces need more support from civilian leaders, and a third general was implicated in last week's coup attempt against

politically, in other countries, there are always third parties involved. We are trying to investigate it in all angles," Gen. Ileto said.

Mr. Benigno said Mrs. Aquino had summoned leaders of both houses of congress to meeting to discuss the coup attempt as well as major issues confronting the country.

Earlier, Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos urged an investigation into possible foreign involvement in the revolt.

"This is a sovereign country and we do not allow foreign interference in our internal affairs," Gen. Ramos told reporters.

"That is something that ought to be looked into," he said when asked if a foreign power was behind the violence that caused

President Aquino.

Gen. Ramos told reporters the cabinet agreed to sponsor legislation to improve soldiers' pay and, if necessary, to divert resources from other projects to improve military capabilities.

During Friday's coup attempt, mutiny leaders claimed the government had discharged the armed forces and was ineffective in confronting Communist and Muslim rebels.

Spokesmen said they agreed to submit the new draft constitution, drawn up last month by a bipartisan panel, to a national referendum by the end of October, with elections by Dec. 20.

President Chun Doo Hwan, whose seven-year mandate expires next February, bowed to weeks of street protest on July 1.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Domingo Casas was relieved of his command for allegedly supporting the rebels. Gen. Casas had served as commander of the 220th Airlift Wing in Cebu City, about 560 kilometers south of Manila.

The Cebu area constabulary commander, Brig. Gen. Edgardo Ahenina, and the deputy air force commander, Brig. Gen. Federico Pasion Jr., also are under investigation in connection with the mutiny.

Gen. Ramos on Wednesday

said the armed forces need more support from civilian leaders, and a third general was implicated in last week's coup attempt against

the youth's mother, Monika, be permitted to testify as a character witness for her son, and the judge agreed.

Mrs. Rust and her husband, Karl-Heinz, arrived in Moscow this week to attend the trial.

Rust has been imprisoned in the Soviet capital since he flew to Moscow from Helsinki, Finland, buzzed the Kremlin and landed in Red Square.

In answer to a question from presiding Judge Robert Tikhonov, a member of the Soviet Supreme Court, Rust said: "I am aware of my guilt."

According to the reading of the charges, he told authorities the goal of his trip was to meet with Soviet leaders to discuss the question of disarmament. Rust's parents had said previously that their son, who comes from Hamburg suburb, had hoped to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in a bid for world peace, and flight rules and "malicious hooliganism."

Rust, who had not been seen in public since his flight on May 28, looked pale but spoke in a firm voice when questioned by the trial judge.

Rust wearing a blue suit coat, over a blue sweater and light blue shirt, was escorted into the courtroom by two uniformed soldiers, who remained standing on either side of him throughout the opening session of the trial.

Most of the morning session was taken up by a reading of the

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Rust pleads guilty to all charges

MOSCOW (AP) — West German pilot Mathias Rust on Wednesday acknowledged his guilt for his daredevil flight to Red Square that triggered a shakeup of the Soviet military high command.

The 19-year-old pilot made the admission at the start of his trial before a Soviet court. He faces up to 10 years in prison on charges of violating Soviet airspace and flight rules and "malicious hooliganism."

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U.K.'s new SDP leader urges calm

PORTRUSH, England (AP) — Robert MacLennan, the new leader of Britain's divided Social Democratic Party (SDP), has said that "the raging must stop" if the party is to keep its identity in merging with the Liberal Party.

The 6-year-old party voted overwhelmingly Monday in pursue a merger with the Liberals by next spring, outflanking anti-merger supporters led by former party leader David Owen.

Most of the morning session was taken up by a reading of the

Colombo arrests Buddhist leader

COLOMBO (R) — A Buddhist monk wanted for possible involvement in bloody riots against Sri Lanka's peace pact has been arrested after a month in hiding, police said on Wednesday.

They said Maduluwawe Sobitha Theru was arrested on Tuesday night soon after he secretly returned to his temple at Kotte just outside Colombo.

Sobitha, 42, is the leader of recently formed Bhikkhu (Buddhist priests) Front, which has campaigned against the peace pact giving limited autonomy to minority Tamils.

The agreement has increased most of the majority Sinhalese community, which is also mainly Buddhist.

At least 70 were killed by police gunfire.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OSCAR SHABOT

CHICAGO TRIBUNE STAFF REPORTERS

EIGHT EVER, NINE . . .

Neither vulnerable South deals

NORTH

♦ A K J 6 2

♦ J 10 3 2

♦ A 6

♦ K 8

♦ Q 6 6

♦ A K 10 2 ♠ J 5 7 5 3

♦ K 9 2 ♠ Q 7 6 5 4 3

SOUTH

♦ K 4 3

♦ A K 9 5 4

♦ A 8 4

♦ A J 10

The holding

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

At his mother's knee, every bridge player learned the rubric: "Eight ever, nine never!" No hand serves to illustrate more dramatically than this one that these saws are for general, not specific situations.

North's bid of two spades is in keeping with modern theory that a jump shift shows either a one-suiter or a hand with a fit for partner's suit, rather than specific

point count. With just three prime controls, South lets his hand be worth one move toward slams.

West's natural lead of diamonds put declarer under immediate pressure, for the defenders had set up a trick for themselves in that suit. If trumps were 1-1, the hand would depend on the spade suit, so declarer cashed the king and ace of hearts, only to learn that he had a trump loser.

But this objective will not succeed unless top people are saved from the "mountains of memo" and "sea of meetings" which eat up three-quarters of their time, the Economic Daily said.

In a front-page report, it itemised five days in the working life of top officials in a county in north China. It found they spent an average of four hours a day in meetings and two hours reading documents.

The waste "has seriously influenced the development of reform and has reached the stage that solving the problem can no longer be postponed," it added.

Under the major reform initiative, three-quarters of China's large state firms have signed con-

Pope ends talks with Jewish leaders on improving relations

CANTON CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II's meeting with Jewish leaders has officially opened a new chapter in historically troubled relations between the two religions.

This week's discussions are "an important moment in this process of reconciliation," Father Pierre Duprey, of the Vatican's commission for religious relations with the Jews, said after attending the meeting with the Pope.

He spoke during a news conference at the Vatican, about three hours after the Pope received nine Jewish leaders at his summer residence, a 17th century palace at Castel Gandolfo in the hill

country south of Rome.

After the Pope met in June at the Vatican with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim — who has denied accusations he helped deport Jews to Nazi concentration camps as a German army officer in World War II — Jewish leaders began seeking a meeting with the Pope.

Some had threatened a boycott of ceremonies next week in Miami during the papal visit to the United States. But Jewish representatives said after Tuesday's 75-minute meeting that mainstream leaders planned to attend the Miami ceremony and other interfaith gathering.

tracts under which they pay a fixed amount each year to the state.

Instead of having to hand over all profit to the state, they pay an amount specified in their contracts and keep any excess, thus encouraging them to make bigger profits.

The economic information newspaper said many firms which had signed such contracts were in difficulties. The departments with which they had signed were irresponsible and gave them no help in vital areas like supplying power, transport and raw materials — all in short supply in China.

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This is one of many obstacles in the way of the new contract system although it has worked well, the official press has said.

A Western diplomat said the line of responsibility between the factory chief and its party secretary, who was the boss before the reforms, was still not clearly drawn.

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Under the major reform initiative, three-quarters of China's large state firms have signed con-

Seoul party leaders endorse draft charter

SEOUL (R) — The leaders of South Korea's ruling and opposition parties met for nearly three hours on Wednesday and agreed on a political timetable for the countdown to presidential elections.

Roh Tae-Woo and Kim Young-Sam, long bitter adversaries, met formally for the first time in the National Assembly's VIP restaurant and apparently held amicable discussions.

Spokesmen said they agreed to submit the new draft constitution, drawn up last month by a bipartisan panel, to a national referendum by the end of October, with elections by Dec. 20.

He announced he would allow direct, democratic elections for his successor to ensure South Korea's first peaceful transfer of power.

Mr. Roh, leader of the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), is the man Mr. Chun wants to succeed him. Mr. Kim, who heads the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) in uneasy tandem with veteran dissident Kim Da-Jung, is seeking to be the opposition standard-bearer in the December poll.

Despite agreement on a number of topics, the two leaders failed at Wednesday's meeting to fix a date for parliamentary elections to reflect the new political reality since Mr. Chun lifted his veto on democratic reforms.

President Chun Doo Hwan, whose seven-year mandate expires next February, bowed to weeks of street protest on July 1.

U.S. rejects Soviet demand on Pershing-1As

SANTA BARBARA (Agencies)

— The White House has rejected a Soviet demand that West Germany's 72 Pershing 1-A missiles be included in a superpower deal to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces around the world.

"We have said continuously that third-country systems are not a part of these negotiations. We continue to maintain that position. We will not negotiate them," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in Santa Barbara, where President Ronald Reagan is on holiday.

Fitzwater was reacting to remarks made on Tuesday in Moscow by Soviet Deputy Foreign

Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh that no progress had been made towards agreement on medium-range missiles.

Moscow has insisted that the Pershings be included in a superpower agreement under negotiation in Geneva to eliminate all intermediate-range forces (INF).

The United States, however, has said the missiles and their U.S.-controlled warheads are separate and apart from the INF talks.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl last week appeared to break the impasse by offering to scrap the missiles if an INF agreement was reached by the end of the year.

Miss Bhutto, head of the Pakistani Peoples Party, told the Arab Times in an interview the government was trying to create chaos in order to justify army rule.

She said two factors caused the Karachi riots: A crackdown on drug smuggling and the lack of party elections.

"Whenever international pressure mounts on the Pakistani

government to stop drugs smuggling, it begins ethnic riots," she said.

Non-party elections had forced people to think in terms of ethnic groups, she added.

At least 37 people have been killed and more than 200 wounded in riots between Pashtuns from North West Frontier province in Mohajir immigrants from India in Karachi in the past week.

Meanwhile police said on Wednesday hundreds of people have been arrested and dozens of weapons seized in southern Pakistan in an operation to quell ethnic riots.

"When we have been

attacked by Pashtuns, we have

been forced to respond," said a police spokesman.

COLOMBO (R) — Indian peacekeeping troops have told women in Sri Lanka's northern city of Jaffna to keep their skirts down while cycling, a newspaper reported on Wednesday. The independent Sun said Indian troops had advised girls who ride bicycles — the most popular transport in Jaffna — to change to saris. "They